widely known, has been recently promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral in the Navy by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the morale of the Navy will not suffer more so because Vice Admiral would be in line for succession to the post of Chief of Naval Staff ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) Based on the findings of the Board of Inquiry, instituted by the Chief of Naval Staff, to investigate the incident, appropriate disciplinary action was taken against several officers, including the then Eastern Fleet Commander. However, the latter officer had completed the tenure of the Displeasure awarded to him before his elevation, which was based on his overall service record, relative merit and seniority.

Construction of Ezhimala Naval Academy

1015. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tender was invited to select the Master Plan for the construction of Ezhimala Naval Academy.

(b) if so, which area has been accepted from amongst the proposals;

(c) what would be the total cost of the construction of the Academy;

(d) by when it is likely to be commissioned;

(e) whether the rehabilitation of those who were there on the proposed site has been completed; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) An all India open two-stage Architectural Competition was conducted to select the architects to design the Ezhimala Academy. The selected architects are preparing the Master Plan for the Academy.

(c) and (d) The total cost of construction of the proposal Naval Academy and the time frame for its completion/commissioning can be determined only after the Master Plan and the Detailed Project Report have been prepared and the Project sanctioned.

(e) The rehabilitation of the ousted families has been undertaken by the State Govt.

(f) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Indian Air Force

1016. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the new progny of MiG aircrafts that are being manufactured in India in coordination with Russia;

(b) whether it is a fact that Russia doesn't want to collaborate with India in the field of new advance technology;

(c) if so, what is the alternate arrangement for the manufacture of advance aircraft which are required for Indian Air Force; and

(d) what steps the Government of India are taking to modernise its Air Force just to match with U.S.A. and other advanced countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) MiG-27M is being manufactured at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under a licence agreement with the erstwhile USSR.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) The requirements for modernisation of the Defence Services, including the Indian Air Force, are reviewed by Government from time to time in the context of the threat perception and appropriate measures are taken to ensure full defence preparedness.

Situation of the line of actual control in North-West Border

1017. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the defence forces in the North-West border along the Line of

Actual Control are fully equipped and alert enough to meet any sudden, offensive action from the other side; and

(b) what is the present state of intrusion from other side of the Line of Actual Control ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Effective counter-measures, including deployment of additional troops in selected areas, have been taken to prevent infiltration across the Line of Control.

Visit of Lt. General of South Command to Gujarat

1018. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the view of recent visit of Lt. General of Southern Command to Gujarat on 22nd September, 1992;

(b) whether the purpose of visit was to make certain recommendations to State Government of Gujarat on internal security view and communal tension; and

(c) whether the matter regarding border was discussed with Chief Minister of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) It is customary for the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief to pay a courtesy call on the Chief Minister, whenever they visit the State capitals in their area of responsibility. During his visit to Gujarat on 22nd September, 1992, the GOC-in-C, Southern Command, calld on the State Chief Minister and *inter dlia,* reviewed the security situation along the border.

Strength of Pak Army

1019. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Wil the Minster of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item that appeared in the Indian Express dated the 9th November, 1992 under the caption 'Pak army now well equipped';

(b) whether there is a strong view in Pakistan that India, at present, is incapable of launching any major offensive as major strength of its army is pinned down in internal deployment in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam;

(c) whether Pakistan army brass are convinced that India can not launch any major offensive from Punjab and Kashmir, which have been traditional battle grounds with Pakistan due to increased internal security operations in these two key border States;

(d) whether the Pakistani Generals feel that recent victory of Mujahideen forces in Afghanistan and developments in Central Asia have given a strategic depth in defence allowing its planners to focus more strongly on India; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Government are aware of the increase in the size of the Pakistan army and acquisition of sophisticated weapons, far beyond its legitimate defence requirements.

(b) to (d) Government do not have any inputs to support such a view.

(e) Government kept a close watch on all developments having a bearing on national security and take appropriate measures from time to time to ensure defence preparedness.

Joint Naval Exercises with China

1020. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to have joint naval exercises with China;

(b) if so, what are the other countries with whom joint naval exercises are proposed to be held; and

(c) what are the benefits likely to be derived therefrom so far as country's interest is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No